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Library News, Winter 2017

San Jose State University Library

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The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library represents a unique collaboration between San José State University and the city of San José. Since 2003, the library has combined academic and public services in the nation's largest joint library. Serving as both the university library for San José State and the main branch of the San José Public Library System, the King Library provides resources and services for a lifetime of learning.

librarynews

WINTER 2017

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. LIBRARY

Library welcomes new dean

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The SJSU King Library welcomed a new dean in June after a lengthy nationwide search. We hope you met Dr. Tracy Elliott at the Special Reception on September 30, or perhaps you have met her in a meeting or performing on campus with the library's book cart drill team.

Dean Elliott moved from Florida, where she was director of libraries for the State College of Florida (SCF), to San José to take over the university library upon Dean Ruth Kifer's retirement at the end of spring semester.

Elliott has more than 20 years of experience working in higher education library services, complemented by a PhD in leadership and education from Barry University in Florida, and both an MS in Library and Information Studies and a BA in Communication from Florida State University. As SCF's libraries director since 2009, she gained unique experience in managing joint-use libraries that included partnerships between college campuses, dual enrollment high schools, a 6-12 grade school and an eCampus.

"During the search process, Dr. Elliott demonstrated a deep understanding of joint-use libraries that will benefit her in leading our partnership with the city of San José," according to Provost Andy Feinstein.

"In addition, she expressed a commitment to student success through providing engaged learning opportunities outside the classroom and to collaborating as a partner in support of research, scholarship and creative activities."

At SCF, Elliott produced the library's first multiyear strategic plan, created an institutional repository and served as the project director on a \$2.5 million U.S. Department of Education grant to improve access to data and student success analytics. Prior to her work at SCF, she served as the head librarian at St. Petersburg College, where she managed a partnership between the college library, the city of Seminole and the city of St. Petersburg to provide public library services. She previously served as dean of learning resources at Rappahannock Community College in Virginia, as a patent librarian at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, also in Virginia, and as an information services librarian at Columbus State University in Georgia.

"I am certain the campus community and supporters of our university library will find Dr. Elliott to be an energetic and experienced leader," Feinstein wrote in his announcement. "Please join me in welcoming Dr. Elliott to San José State." ♦

Message from the dean



Welcome to the fall 2016 issue of *LibraryNews*!

I was incredibly honored to be appointed dean of the university library this spring. San José State's King Library is a model for maximizing a collaborative partnership that enhances services and resources for university and public library users. For 13 years, this library has achieved

just that. This is why we have visitors from all over the world—including a recent visit from the CEO of the University of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Australia, who is seeking best practices for similar partnerships. There are many new initiatives in store for our library as we seek to facilitate faculty and student research, collaborative work and high-end computing.

We couldn't provide students and faculty with the best services and resources without the help of our generous

donors. In this issue, we are highlighting the Friends of the Library's work and donations. The library's endowments are growing as well: the new Emerging Technology Endowment, recently established in honor of departing Dean Ruth Kifer, was funded within weeks of being started.

This issue of *LibraryNews* also shows the whimsical, fun-loving side of our library staff. Read the behind-the-scenes story of how the King Library Book Cart Drill Team flew to Pasadena to audition for the popular television show *America's Got Talent*. Closer to home, the library's always-improving fourth floor, known as the Spartan Floor, now has more collaborative space and a new writing hub where a storage area used to be.

Enjoy this issue of the newsletter, and please get in touch with me anytime you have comments or questions.

—Tracy Elliott, SJSU Library Dean
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“Speed City” stops by King Library

Big Men on Campus Dr. Harry Edwards, Tommie Smith and John Carlos—in town for last May's “Speed City” commemoration and events—stopped by the SJSU King Library's Special Collections unit to peek at their past and plan for the future. San José earned the “Speed City” moniker for its collection of world-class sprinters in the mid-20th century.

Edwards (pictured at left), the university's 2016 commencement speaker and author of *The Revolt of the Black Athlete*, *Sociology of Sport* and *The Struggle That Must Be*, donated books, photographs, posters and memorabilia to the King Library's Special Collections unit earlier this year.

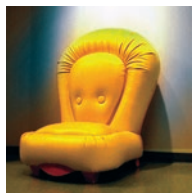
Tommie Smith and John Carlos, the two SJSU runners who raised their fists in a Black Panther salute during the 1968 Olympic ceremony in which they received gold and bronze medals, joined Edwards in the Special Collections Reading Room. Smith's and Carlos' courageous act is commemorated in a sculpture by Rigo 23 in the center of campus.

Read more about Edwards' donation and visit to the SJSU library at:

- blogs.sjsu.edu/wsqr/2016/06/20/dr-harry-edwards-return-to-san-jose-state/
- go.sjsu.edu/drharryedwards

Upcoming events and exhibits

For more information about these and other public events, visit the King Library website at library.sjsu.edu/events.



Tours of the King Library

Every Thursday,
11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Welcome Desk,
first floor

Drop-in tours covering the King Library building's design, collections, and art are offered every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. on a first-come, first-served basis. Where else can you see a revolving secret door, a low-rider table complete with hydraulic lifts, or a set of tables shaped like the seven continents? These pieces and more comprise 34 public art installations designed to provoke curiosity and encourage exploration throughout the King Library. Sign up for a tour at the Welcome Desk on the library's ground floor. For more information, call 408-808-2181.



Beethoven Center's First Wednesdays events

First Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m.

Schiro Room, fifth floor

On the first Wednesday of each month, Beethoven's music will fill the Schiro Room during concerts and recitals. See the line-up of programs at sjsu.edu/beethoven/events_community/first_wednesday/.

South First Fridays

South First Fridays Art Walk

First Friday of the month, 7 p.m.

King Library lobby

Art lovers fill the library's lobby the first Friday of the month for this community event, which brings people to downtown San José to see art, hear musicians and peruse crafters' wares. For information about coming events, see the First Fridays website at southfirstfridays.com.



"Beethoven in Love" exhibit

Now through December 17

Mondays–Thursdays, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Fridays, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Saturdays, 1–5 p.m.

Beethoven Center and Special Collections
lobby, fifth floor

Who was Beethoven's "Immortal Beloved" of 1812? You will have a chance to vote on who she might have been after studying the "Beethoven in Love" exhibit. This new exhibit explores the continuing mystery of her identity. Visitors are invited to cast their ballots at the Immortal Beloved Voting Booth and receive a free "Beethoven in Love" souvenir button.

"Beethoven in Love" coincides with the 200th anniversary of the publication of a beautiful set of songs called *To the Distant Beloved*. You can view an introductory video and listen to some of Beethoven's music at sjsu.edu/beethoven/collections_exhibit/current_exhibitions, and learn more about the exhibit in a video narrated by Patricia Stroh, curator of the Beethoven Center, at youtu.be/l-xUwNZ3A9g.

Funded by the American Beethoven Society and a Cultural Affairs Grant from the city of San José, this exhibit is curated by Patricia Stroh, Beethoven Center librarian, and William Meredith, director of the Beethoven Center and Beethoven scholar-in-residence.

University Scholar Series



Selected Wednesdays,
noon–1 p.m.

Room 225, second floor

The University Scholar Series showcases the research and scholarly activities of SJSU faculty members. Cosponsored by the Office of the Provost,

the university library, the Office of Research, Faculty Affairs and the Spartan Bookstore, the series features three lectures each semester. Everyone is welcome to attend.

To learn more about the University Scholar Series, go to library.sjsu.edu/uss. To sign up for email notifications of future lectures, visit sjsu.edu/provost/events/uss.



In May, friends and co-workers, including SJSU Provost Andy Feinstein, gathered to bid a fond farewell to retiring Dean Ruth Kifer, who led the university library from fall 2005 through spring 2016.

The Library Emerging Technology Endowment, created in Dean Kifer's honor, will fund new technologies to support content creation, collaboration and learning for SJSU students in the library.



Late professor's papers bring hi

By Victor Rodriguez II, Graduate Student Archivist | Photos by Justin Villena, User and Research Services Assistant

Working on the collection donated by Professor Gordon B. Greb was quite an experience. As a new addition to the student archivist staff of Special Collections in the King Library, I was rather surprised and honored to be given an unprocessed collection.

As a graduate student of U.S. history who was considering his options in furthering his education and choosing a possible profession, I thought it would be a great opportunity to learn how to process a research collection like a professional archivist. The hands-on experience was a great opportunity to learn this, as well as discovering the parameters and necessary knowledge needed to complete such a task. I owe thanks to SJSU Special Collections Interim Director Rebecca Kohn, digitization coordinator Diane Malmstrom, librarian Leilani Marshall, and my student archivist colleagues for guiding me through this collection.

Yet the satisfaction of processing this collection surprisingly came from learning about the history of the material, the material itself, and the individual who donated the collection: Gordon Greb. The Professor Gordon B. Greb Papers comprise three topics: the 1969 American Federation of Teachers strike at San José State College, the world's first radio broadcasting station, and publications by Greb.

ACADEMIC ACTIVISM

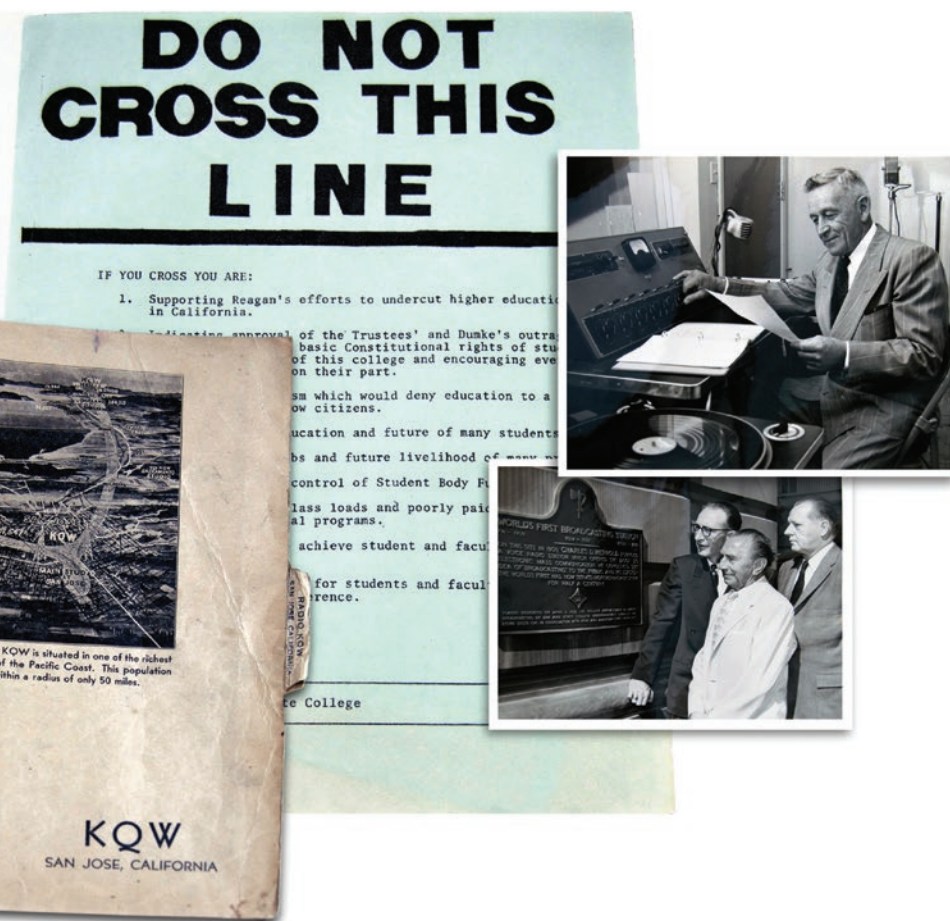
The American Federation of Teachers strike was a brilliant example of 1960s protests, activism and radicalism that occurred on the campus of what is now San José State University. Driven by faculty demands for a reform on collective bargaining rights that Governor Ronald Reagan refused to acknowledge, SJSU faculty threatened to walk out of their classes and offices, and committed to a sit-down strike that lasted for several days.

The materials from the collection, consisting of flyers, campus publications, SJSU administration papers, committee meeting notes, typed proclamations on the necessity of a strike, and newspaper clippings, put into context the mood of the 1960s among SJSU faculty and students. This was fascinating to learn because, for me, it made the broad, wondrous decade of the 1960s personal and local by bringing themes of the '60s back to the doorstep of San José State University that the campus could, once again, claim as its own.

WORLD'S FIRST RADIO STATION

Learning about the world's first radio broadcasting station was also fascinating because it is local history and because Greb was able to prove that San José was the birthplace of radio broadcasting.

In 1909, Stanford University dropout Charles Herrold developed the first radio station and broadcast regularly



SJSU Special Collections now holds the Professor Gordon B. Greb Papers, which include documentation related to the world's first radio broadcasting station and the 1969 strike by faculty at San José State College.

Professor Emeritus Gordon Greb was born on August 7, 1921. A fourth-generation Californian, Greb grew up in Oakland and San Leandro. After completing a BA at the University of California at Berkeley in 1939, Greb earned a master's degree from University of Minnesota, then conducted graduate work at Stanford University. In 1956 Greb began his tenure in the SJSU Journalism Department, where he helped create the first broadcast journalism major on the West Coast.

story alive for student archivist

throughout the week to people to whom he had provided crystal radio sets. Greb conducted research ranging from personal interviews, secondary sources and archival research to come to this conclusion. He publicized his findings in 1959 and was able to facilitate a 50th anniversary for the discovery of radio in San José.

To me, it seemed that Greb's rediscovery of this history extended the legacy of Silicon Valley as a leading center for technological development nearly 50 years before the computer revolution, or NASA, Lockheed and others were able to leave their mark as a cornerstone of Bay Area history.

CONNECTING LOCAL HISTORY TO BROADER THEMES

Learning about Greb as an individual helped me respect and admire him even more because of his numerous contributions to social causes, to local historical narratives and to SJSU: During the American Federation of Teachers strike of 1969, Greb was the public relations leader for the local San José chapter of the federation. He also rediscovered and published historic findings asserting San José was the birthplace of radio. And, as an SJSU journalism professor, he made broadcast journalism a focus of the academic program

"The materials from the collection... put into context the mood of the 1960s among SJSC faculty and students."

because he saw the importance this category of journalism would have in the future.

Working on the Professor Gordon B. Greb Papers was an honor

and privilege, and I hope that this collection will become widely used by students and professional researchers. The material has a lot to offer regarding local history by providing a connection between broader historical events and themes, such as the activism of the 1960s or the rich history of radio in the United States. People will also gain insight into who Greb was as an individual and an educator.

View the Gordon B. Greb Papers Finding Aid in the Online Archive of California at oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8xs60wr/. ♦



Victor Rodriguez II is working on his MA in History. As a graduate student archivist at the SJSU library, he spent two semesters processing the donations of Gordon Greb, transforming boxes of historic papers into an organized, findable collection.



Students gain space and writing help on Spartan Floor

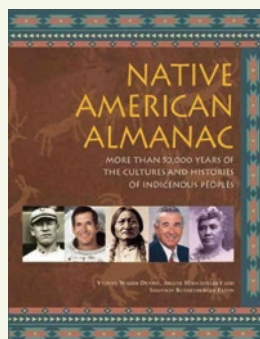
Above, SJSU students work together in "The Hub," a new collaborative space on the King Library's Spartan Floor.

THE KING LIBRARY made available more space for students by removing walls from a storage area over the summer. This new collaborative space, known as "The Hub," was designed for students to meet with writing fellows embedded in some English classes as part of a partnership between the university library and the College of Humanities & the Arts. New furniture, including seating of various heights and types, has been placed in the open area on the fourth floor; the area along the wall includes booths.

Designing the Spartan Floor, as the recently reconfigured fourth floor is known, has been a long-term effort to create a space for students to gather and collaborate. The Student Computing Services Center and the Student Technology Training Center anchor the Spartan Floor.

Read more about writing support at The Hub at sjsu.edu/wac/writingsupport/.

Native American Studies collection unveiled

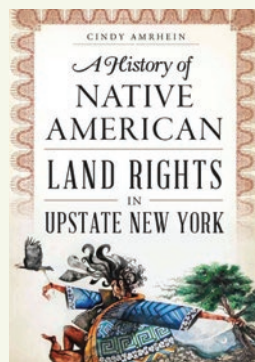


THE SJSU LIBRARY'S CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER (CHC) features a new collection designation in the catalog: King Native American Studies Collection. This new group of CHC resources has been in development for more than a decade.

"With the addition of this collection, we now have a one-of-a-kind collection among university libraries in Northern California," according

to Kathryn Blackmer Reyes, CHC director and librarian. The collection is currently small, about 300 books, but "I am very proud of this achievement," she said.

The CHC is the cornerstone of diversity in the library and a multicultural bridge to the campus at large. Its mission is to serve racial and ethnic studies and underrepresented students. The unit was modeled after UC Berkeley's Ethnic Studies Library, which houses three U.S. race and ethnic collections: Asian American, Native American and Chicano. The King Library's CHC includes Africana, Asian American, Chicano and Native American Studies collections, as well as



Comparative Ethnic Studies and Reference resources.

"I am thankful to the past and present CHC Advisory Board members and to Jeff Paul, my predecessor, for setting this collection goal," said Blackmer Reyes. "I am thankful to Dean Tracy Elliott, who said 'yes' without my having to explain or justify at length the importance of this collection. And finally, I am thankful to the team in Technical Services,

who quickly made needed changes to the catalog."

The Native American Studies Collection is located on the library's fifth floor, between the CHC's Reference and Comparative Ethnic Studies collections. Read more about the CHC at library.sjsu.edu/cultural-heritage-center/cultural-heritage-center and about the CHC pre-endowment at library.sjsu.edu/giving-library/cultural-heritage-center-pre-endowment. ♦



THE KING LIBRARY BOOK CART DRILL TEAM, made up of university and public library staff, can often be spotted rehearsing on campus. In 2015, the team performed in the Rose, White & Blue Fourth of July parade and won the Spartan Pride Award.

King Library Book Cart Drill Team wins Spartan spirit award, makes TV appearance

The team that won the 2015 Spartan Pride Award recently appeared on a popular television show.

Last year, the King Library Book Cart Drill Team won the Spartan Pride Award for their performance in the Rose, White & Blue Fourth of July parade. More recently, the team, performing under the name The Banned Bookies, received national exposure when they appeared on *America's Got Talent*.

In February, eight members of the rotating team membership flew to Pasadena—at the weekly television show's invitation and expense—to audition. Participants included university staffers Julie Kowalewski Ward, Bernd Becker, Wei Ding and Jeff Frank, along with San José Public Library staffers Rebecca Heine, Laura Nacorda, Simone Williams and Laurie Willis.

"I am so proud of you guys," Kowalewski Ward told the team right before they were about to go before the television cameras. "Keep it tight, keep it clean and have fun," was her last-minute advice. See those spine-tingling moments before their audition on the team's Facebook page at facebook.com/kinglibrarydrillteam/.

The drill team formed in fall 2014 when Kowalewski Ward, the university library's access services manager, put out the call to library employees. People from all departments on both the public and university sides of the library came together to rehearse formations set to music with book carts, which

"Keep it tight, keep it clean and have fun."



JULIE KOWALEWSKI WARD led the King Library Book Cart Drill Team, above, in the 2015 Rose, White & Blue Fourth of July parade. Left, she coaches the team before their *America's Got Talent* audition.

library employees use to shelve books. The team's first performance, in the King Library lobby, was in December 2014, followed by St. Patrick's Day and May in-service performances. To rehearse for the Rose, White & Blue, a neighborhood Fourth of July parade in San José, eight book cart drill team members rolled their book carts all over campus practicing formations, to the entertainment of university staff watching through office windows and incoming students attending freshman orientation.

You can watch the King Library Book Cart Drill Team in action on YouTube at youtu.be/4A-4vBidl34 and on Facebook at facebook.com/kinglibrarydrillteam. Their television audition may be viewed at facebook.com/kinglibrarydrillteam/videos/568707796634834/. ♦



Friends of the Library bag major contributions

At \$1 for a hardback, 50 cents for a paperback, and an entire grocery bag of books for \$5 on Sundays, it's hard to believe that sales of used books have brought in well over a quarter of a million dollars to the King Library.

"It does add up," Sherry Bruning, past president and current vice president of the Friends of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, said about the group's monthly used book sales—and the resulting \$20,000-a-year-or-so donations to the King Library.

A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing financial support to the King Library, the Friends have pitched in from the start of the merged library in 2003. Originally established in 1973 as the Friends of the San José Public Library, the group changed its name in 2006 to the Friends of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library as the group's mission and the library evolved, Bruning said.

The King Library, which the Friends of the King Library supports, serves both the San José Public Library and San José State University. Donations and purchases have supported the Summer Reading Challenge program as well as the annual Halloween and Christmas children's programs that SJPL administers. The Friends have also supported many university efforts, like the Irene Dalis-Loinaz Collection Endowment, the National Endowment for the Humanities challenge grant, and the Library Professional Development Pre-Endowment. The Friends also helped fund the recently established and quickly fulfilled Library Emerging Technology Endowment; their contribution will help students and

teens gain skills in audio and video editing and explore new technologies like 3-D printing.

To raise funds, the Friends sell books: the group runs the Friends of the Library Bookstore on the main level of the King Library. The bookstore has thousands of used books, audiobooks, CDs and other items for sale. Manager Adam Andrews supervises about 10 volunteers who run the bookstore several days a week.

The group's most visible effort is undoubtedly the monthly book sale, held the last weekend of each month from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sundays. On Sundays, browsers may fill a shopping bag with as many books as they'd like for \$5. Each sale usually includes thousands of books, as well as audiobooks, CDs, DVDs, vinyl records and audiotapes. Tim Canale, book sale manager, oversees volunteers for the monthly book sales, which are held just outside the library entrance near the Friends bookstore.

The Friends of the King Library currently has 10 community board members, plus SJPL liaison Margaret Yamasaki, SJSU librarian Elisabeth Thomas, and a liaison from San José's Library and Early Education Commission, Daniel Newell. Hilary Langhorst was elected Friends president in May 2016.

"We have longevity, something not a lot of Friends groups have," Bruning said. "That's kind of nice."

Find the Friends on Facebook (facebook.com/groups/295954729286/) and follow the group on Instagram (instagram.com/friendsofthekinglibrary/) to see news and photos of the bookstore, book sales and other activities. ♦



UPPER LEFT: Sabra Diridon, senior director of development, Professor Emerita Arlene Okerland, Benton and Marylou White, Emeritus Professor Dennis Wilcox and Professor Fred Barez.

UPPER RIGHT: Nancy Wiener, Dean Tracy Elliott, Ken Wiener and Sabra Diridon. The Wieners established the Nancy & Kenneth Wiener Social Work Collection Endowment last year.

MIDDLE LEFT: Barbara Azevedo, Tim Canale and Nobuko Greanlead with Hilary Langhorst, former president of the Friends of the King Library.

MIDDLE RIGHT: SJSU librarian Emily Chan, lecturer Akudbundu Lott, Dean Mary Schutten, Provost Andy Feinstein, and SJSU librarians Anamika Megwalu and Kathryn Blackmer Reyes.

LOWER LEFT: Longtime library supporters Professor Tom Layton and Mabel Mirasaki with Sabra Diridon.

Deans honor library donors at spring and fall events

The SJSU library's outgoing and incoming deans recently held two events to honor the library's dedicated supporters.

After spring semester was over, SJSU library donors attended retiring Dean Ruth Kifer's final donor appreciation event. More than 65 guests enjoyed lunch and music in the library's Grand Reading Room on May 26 for the annual event.

Every year the Grand Reading Room on the eighth floor of the King Library, with its sweeping views of the South Bay, is transformed from a quiet study space into a reception and banquet hall where the university library dean honors library supporters. This year renowned pianist and SJSU music professor Dr. Gwendolyn Mok gave a special concert for donors,

a gift in and of itself. Mok, the SJSU Music Department's area coordinator for keyboard studies, was also the recipient of the President's Scholar Award for 2016.

Then, at the end of September, incoming library dean Tracy Elliott hosted a welcome reception in the library atrium, a casual evening where Elliot welcomed campus leaders and longtime library supporters. SJSU Provost Andy Feinstein, deans of other colleges, and current and emeritus professors joined stalwart library supporters in giving Dean Elliott "the chance to say 'thank you' and 'hello.'"

Stay tuned for information about the 2017 donor event, to be hosted by Dean Elliott, in the spring issue of *LibraryNews*. ♦



Endowments continue to grow

Endowments—funds created for a specific purpose or to support a particular program—help the university library flourish and grow. The most recent endowment, the Library Emerging Technology Endowment, established in honor of retired Dean Ruth Kifer last May, has already been fulfilled. Earlier this year, the Nancy and Kenneth Wiener Social Work Collection Endowment came to fruition, and more are on the horizon.

Read more about the library's endowments, special funds and pre-endowments, as well as the items purchased with each fund, at library.sjsu.edu/giving-library/ways-give.

ABOVE: A collection of bookplates represents the many endowments created to support the SJSU King Library.